

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments. The independent and dependent claims have been amended to remove all references to a "flowable" absorbent material. The independent claims (45, 62 and 102) have been further amended to indicate that the absorbent material "absorbs 10 ml or more of water per gram of absorbent material." This limitation is supported on page 5, lines 4-6; page 14, Table 1; and page 15, lines 8-17. The independent claims also recite that the absorbent material "absorbs said water under conditions where no volume expansion is possible." This limitation (which was already in the independent claims) is supported on page 14, Table 1 and page 15, lines 23-25; and is further apparent from page 19, lines 5-9 and page 26, lines 30-35.

The rejection of Claims 45-111 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement, is respectfully traversed. The rejection is premised on the statement that the specification does not define how the "ability to flow" of an absorbent material is determined, particularly after the absorption of a liquid. The specification indicates that the ability of the absorbent material to flow is retained due to the fact that the absorbent material absorbs substantial water without experiencing an increase in volume (p. 14, line 20 – p. 15, line 17). In order to eliminate any confusion, the claims have been amended to eliminate all of the language which the Examiner objected to.

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No prior art has been cited against the claims. The prior art of record does not disclose an absorbent article including an absorbent material which a) absorbs 10 ml or more of water per gram of absorbent material, and b) absorbs said water under conditions where no volume expansion is possible.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain unresolved, then Applicants' attorney respectfully requests a telephone call from the Examiner, and a telephone interview. Again, all of the claim language objected to has been removed, and no prior art has been cited against the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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